

4.2. High Risk Population Subgroup Surveys -- Arrestees: Tennessee Adult and Juvenile Arrestee Study, 1995⁴⁶

The Tennessee DUF/SANTA Arrestee Study⁴⁷, conducted by the UTK Community Health Research Group (CHRG) in 1996, sampled both adult and juvenile arrestees in Tennessee. The study was sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Health, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services. Valuable information has been gained concerning self-reported diagnosis of or treatment for HIV/AIDS, as well as several risk factors associated with HIV/AIDS, including IDU and unprotected sex.

Of 1,088 adult arrestees interviewed, 1.9% said they had ever been treated for HIV/AIDS. Of the 419 juvenile arrestees interviewed, 2.1% said they had ever been treated for HIV/AIDS. Demographically, the 21 adult arrestees who had ever been treated for HIV/AIDS were more likely to be black males (38%) and black females (24%) than white males (19%) and white females (14%). One of the 21 adult arrestees was "other race". The average age of adult arrestees reporting HIV/AIDS was 33 years, with 38% falling into the 20-29 year age-group, another 38% falling in the 30-39 year age-group, 19% in the 40-49 year age-group. The remaining 5% represented the 50+ age-group. Of the 9 juvenile arrestees reporting HIV/AIDS, on whom demographic data were available, the average age was 15 years.

Various risk behaviors associated with HIV/AIDS were included in the questions on the arrestee survey. With regard to sexual practices, 24% of 1,134 adult arrestees had engaged in sex with four or more partners during the prior year. A small percentage of the sample (3%) refused to answer this question. For the 444 juvenile arrestees, 30% had four or more sex partners during the past year. A similar percentage of the juveniles (4%) refused to answer this question. In terms of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), 22% of 1,088 adult arrestees reported ever having been treated for an STD, while 11% of 419 juvenile arrestees reported treatment for an STD.

Another important risk behavior associated with HIV/AIDS is injecting drug use (IDU). Of 879 adult arrestees, 20% admitted to ever having injected drugs, while only 3% of 317 juvenile arrestees admitted such behavior. Of those individuals who had ever injected drugs, the drug(s) of choice varied by age-group and type of drug used. Of the 175 adult arrestees who had ever injected drugs, cocaine was the most popular (81%), followed by other drugs (45%), heroin (37%), and uppers (25%). For the 10 juvenile arrestees who had ever injected drugs, heroin was the most popular (70%), followed by cocaine (50%), uppers (20%), and other drugs (20%). Caution should be used when considering the juvenile drug injectors, given the very small numbers. Moreover, these percentages for the four types of drugs for both age-groups will not sum to 100%

⁴⁶These results are preliminary and are provided courtesy of the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, TDH.

⁴⁷ DUF stands for Drug Use Forecasting Study. SANTA is the Substance Abuse and Need for Treatment Assessment survey. Both are national sample surveys of arrestees and prisoners concerning their drug use and abuse and need for treatment services.